

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on November 23, 2005, the Examiner objected to claims 1-8; and rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,006,215 to Retallick ("Retallick"). Applicants herein cancel claims 1-18, and present new claims 19-38 to more effectively capture the subject matter that Applicants regard as their invention. As a result, claims 19-38 are now pending. Further examination and review in view of the amendments and remarks below are respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative during the January 3, 2006 telephone interview, during which the participants discussed newly proposed claim 19, the Retallick reference, and how the recited features are not suggested or taught by the Retallick reference.

Applicants' techniques are directed to providing collaboration among workers. In some cases, the collaboration occurs through the sharing of smaller tasks among the workers, also referred to as resources, involved in a larger project. Responsibility for tasks, also referred as task ownership, can be delegated from a project manager to the resources working on the project. Moreover, any resource may delegate a task to any other resource. As a project progresses, tasks can be transferred from one manager to another manager and/or resource, with the transferring manager retaining varying levels of control over the delegation process, for example, from a strictly controlled approach to a flexible, highly collaborative approach. In operation, when a resource (delegator) delegates a task to another resource (delegatee), the delegator's client sends a delegation message to both the project manager client and the delegatee's client.

The Examiner objected to claims 1-8. Applicants herein cancel claims 1-8, thus making this objection moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 over Retallick. Applicants herein cancel claims 1-18, thus making this rejection moot.

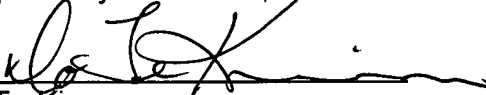
Newly presented claims 19-38 each recite, responsive to the request from a first resource client to delegate a task to a second resource client, sending the second resource client an indication of the request from the first resource client to delegate the task to the second resource client, and sending a project manager client an indication of the request from the first resource client to delegate the task to the second resource client, where the task was previously delegated by the project manager client to the first resource client. Retallick neither teaches nor suggests that an indication of a request from a first resource client to delegate a task to a second resource client is sent to both the second resource client and a project manager client.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 19-38 are allowable and ask that this application be passed to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8000.

Dated: 2/6/06

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Do Te Kim

Registration No.: 46,231
PERKINS COIE LLP
P.O. Box 1247
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247
(206) 359-8000
(206) 359-7198 (Fax)
Attorneys for Applicant